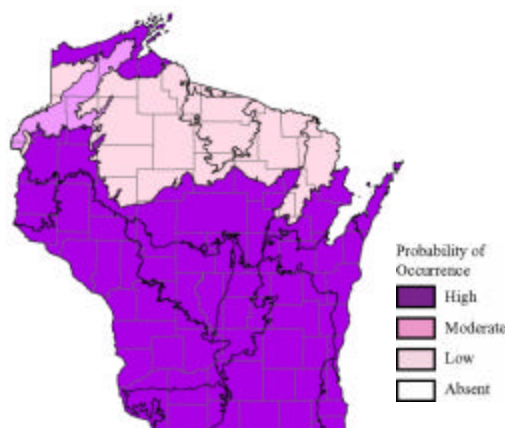


Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	2
State threats:	4
State population trend:	5
Global abundance:	2
Global distribution:	1
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	3.1
Area of importance:	4

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southeast Glacial Plains	Dry-mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southwest Savanna	Dry-mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Surrogate grasslands
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Surrogate grasslands
Western Prairie	Mesic prairie
Western Prairie	Surrogate grasslands

Threats and Issues

- Succession of grassland habitats to shrubland and woodland, due to lack of fire or other management to suppress woody growth.
- Any changes in climate that lead to loss or degradation of preferred habitat.
- Intensification of agriculture, including early and frequent harvest of hay and conversion of idle grassland (including pasture) to row crops or tree plantations.
- Loss of grassland habitat due to development.
- Disturbance of grassland nesting cover during the breeding season.
- Overgrazing decreases habitat quality for this species.
- Aggressive invasive species, including yellow parsnip, crown vetch, leafy spurge, thistles, reed canary grass, and some goldenrods can degrade habitat quality of grasslands for this species.
- Agricultural pesticides may pose a threat in certain cases on winter, migration, and breeding grounds.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Continue agricultural set-aside programs, especially those that allow for permanent protection of grassland habitats. Prevent tree planting in important grassland areas, particularly in areas receiving set-aside payments.
- Work with planning and zoning authorities to protect valuable open grassland landscapes from being converted to urban or suburban development.
- Create incentives for delaying hay harvest until after the primary breeding season.
- Partnerships are key for conserving this species in working agricultural landscapes.